TIMES-VIRGINIAN

IN THE HEART OF THE DARK TOBACCO BELT

APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA

ESTABLISHED 1892

CALVIN H. ROBINSON ....EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

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Editorial Comment

A SPECIAL WORD OF APPRECIATION

We send Christmas Greetings to all the family of Times-Virginian readers and advertisers. However, we wish to single out for special greeting and appreciation, the fine "county correspondents" who do so much to make a weekly newspaper interesting. This paper has a faithful and able group of correspondents, and we would truly feel lost without their newsy letters. Their material rewards are slight.But they have the knowledge that they are making a very real contribution to the life of the community, and doing something civic minded: maintaining rural life as the attractive force they should a newsy letter to former residents, who maintain contact with their home county through a subscription to its county paper. We send copies of this paper to all parts of the United States, and these subscribers look forward to reading the items of their home community - the personal mention items of rural Appomattox. Sometimes the editor has to cut these letters in these days of shortages, but we cannot let the Christmas season go by without extending a greeting to The Rural Correspondent.

"VOLUME 54 NUMBER 52"

Note on today's front page the legend: Volume 54 Number 52. It means that your county paper is today ending its 54th year, and next week will start its 55th year of publication. The Times - Virginian has been under its present ownership since September, 1931.

Phone 30 with Personals.

To end curb on installation of telephones.

RATE STILL HIGH

As we go to press, the number of persons killed on the highways of Virginia in 1946, has reached the total of 766. The size of that total is alarming, and a sobering thought at the holiday season. we know of no better New Year resolution than a pledge for more careful driving in 1947.

Earthquake in Japan takes lives of over 700.

Arizona town asks Santa for a doctor.

Sale Among Hungry Bears

Recently, [illegible] the meat shortage caught up with a zoo owned by R. F. Creighton Sr.

But he had the answer--bearburgers.

Unable to find meat for his three bears and a lion, Creighton liquidated the bears. Hungry human beings, also unable to find meat, placed orders for 500 pounds of chops, steaks and bearburgers. Long lines formed when the bear meat went on sale.

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IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson

By HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, D. D. Of The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. Released by Western Newspaper Union.

Lesson for December 29

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PAUL CLAIMS THE WORLD FOR CHRIST

LESSON TEXT--Acts 9:15; 19:21; 23:11; 25:23-31; Romans 1:13-16; 15:22-24.

MEMORY SELECTION: I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.--Romans 1:14.

The gospel is for the whole world. God wants all men to hear and come to repentance (John 3:16; II Pet. 3:9).

For the establishment of the great missionary program with its world-wide sweep, he called a man gifted, prepared and anointed for that work, namely Paul, whose life and ministry have been our interesting [illegible] these three months.

Now we find him at the very center of the then known world to [illegible]. Politically, commercially, socially and religiously, Rome was the very heart of the known world which centered around the Mediterranean sea (the name of which means "the middle of the earth").

Having [illegible] almost everywhere else, Paul had a longing to face heathendom at its very center and claim trophies for Christ and the gospel.

Our lesson presents:

I. God's Plan and Man's Purpose (Acts 9:15; 19:21).

Choice involves the thought of selection because of certain qualities or abilities. The Lord had prepared Paul for just this ministry, and now he chose him to carry it out. That encourages us to believe that God is leading in the experiences of our lives, preparing us for the day when he will call and use us. Let us be yielded and ready.

Our second Scripture (Acts 19:21) tells us that the plan of God was put into operation by the purpose in Paul's heart. God does not have to depend on man to do his work, but he does just that! We may hinder his full use of us if we fail to purpose in our spirit to do his will, as Paul did. God wanted Paul in Rome. That was his plan, and that was the purpose of Paul's heart.

II. God's Confirmation and Man's Determination (Acts 23:11; Rom. 1: 13-16; 15:22-24).

Man needs to have his good purposes confirmed by the Lord, and so it was in the case of Paul. He had been taken prisoner for the gospel's sake. His trial had resulted [illegible] as a question [illegible] anywhere let [illegible] of discourage[illegible] [illegible] life in Jerusalem so must thou bear witness also at Rome."

In his letter to the Romans, Paul [illegible] determination to come [illegible] entrances, [illegible] trip to [illegible] probably did not [illegible], but in spite of all these things he would come in due time.

The reason for that determination is tremendously interesting and personal to us as well as to his own lives. He saw himself to be a debtor. The gospel had been committed to him, not as [illegible] own good or [illegible] thing he [illegible] who had not heard, including Rome.

We, too, who know Christ are in debt to a world which has not heard of him. That includes the cultured, whom we often forget, and the uncultured, the men of every race--everyone who has need of a Saviour.

The tremendous urge which moved Paul should be characteristic of every believer. Think what it would mean for the evangelization of the world if every Christian said: "As much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel" (v. 15).

III. God's Salvation and Man's Declaration (Acts 28:28-31).

A slight change in the arrangement of our Scriptures brings us to our concluding thought. God had sent salvation to the Gentiles and they would hear it (v. 28), even if the preacher had to come as a prisoner, for Paul came thus to Rome.

How wonderfully God arranged it all, for Paul was given the privilege, even as a prisoner, of living for two years under guard in a private house. Here he won his guards to Christ, many members of Caesar's official household (Phil. 4:22), and others who came and went as he preached and taught, "no man forbidding him" (v. 31).

When man declares the gospel of salvation which God has sent, mighty things are wrought for the glory of God and the good of men.

It is just that which we should be about with renewed zeal and diligence during the new year just ahead. We are in debt, and we must discharge our indebtedness by declaring to all that Jesus saves, keeps and satisfies.

Best wishes for a most blessed new year! It may well be the most important year in all history. Let us make use of it for the glory of God

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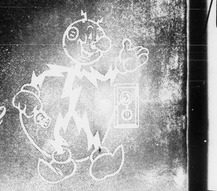

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d may each soul keep festival,
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Chas. T. Moses

wish to thank all my friends and customers for good business they have given me during 1946 to extend to them my best wishes for a Merry ristmas and a Happy New Year.

LESTER B. HARVEY

Phone 8103 Appomattox, Va.

Merry Christmas

The Yuletide Season brings joyous Greetings to all our customers and an appreciation for the considerations we have enjoyed during the past year. Our Good Wishes to you and yours.

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REG'LAR FELLERS By Gene Byrnes

Facts and Fancies Of New Year's Day

New Year's with its open houses, parties, exchanging of New Year's cards, horn tooting, Auld Lang Syne and New Year's resolutions, is one of the oldest of celebrations. As a holiday it has been observed since ancient times, and has been marked throughout history by the giving of gifts and the exchange of greetings.

The early Persians said "Happy New Year!" with colored eggs. They regarded New Year's in much the same way we, today, regard Easter -- as a time of renewal of all things. And on New Year's Day, pagan Britons received branches of sacred mistletoe from their Druid priests.

According to some authorities the custom of gift-giving at New Year's originated in 747 B. C. when the Romans presented Tatius, king of the Sabines, with boughs from trees consecrated to Strenia, the goddess of strength. Consequently, New Year's gifts became known as "strenae" and were exchanged among friends and neighbors and exacted by emperors from their subjects.

The Emperor Claudius showed unprecedented concern for the "popa-li's"- pocketbook by serving notice to the Roman citizenry that the cost of all "strenae" given to him should not exceed a specified amount.

While the observation of New Year's dates from early Persian time, the modern version with its noise and celebration is a vastly different affair than the B. C. period.

Henry III of England, however, wasn't so considerate. He followed the Roman tradition of exacting New Year's gifts from his subjects, and this custom was carried on by succeeding monarchs up until the time of Charles I.

It was this practice which caused one of Henry VIII's most embarrassing moments. One "Honest Old Latiner," instead of presenting his sovereign lord with the usual purse of gold, gave him the New Testament with a leaf conspicuously folded down at Hebrews XIII, 4, which passage bore certain appropriateness to the monarch's domestic failings.

Most noted for fabulous New Year's "hauls" was Good Queen Bess. Her presents ranged from jewel-embroidered petticoats to fatted geese for the royal larder.

However, when Oliver Cromwell and the Puritans took over the English government, they put an end to this extravagant practice, only to have it revived later by the royal Stuarts.

In Merrie Olde England, the common New Year's article of exchange amongst the ordinary citizenry was a pair of gloves. Occasionally the gloves were accompanied by sums of money which came to be known as "glove money."

A story is told of Sir Thomas More, lord-chancellor, who decided a case in favor of a certain young lady. On the following New Year's Day, she sent him a pair of gloves with 40 gold coins enclosed. Sir Thomas returned the coins with the following note: "Mistress, since it were against good manners to refuse your New Year's gift, I am content to take your gloves, but as for the 'lining' I utterly refuse to take it."

Pins, too, were a common New Year's gift at this time and the money accompanying them was referred to as "pin-money" -- hence our modern term.

Today, in England and America, the practice of exchanging New Year's gifts is practically obsolete. But the spirit of hope and good will and resolution that characterizes the coming of the New Year is kept alive by the friendly and growing custom of exchanging New Year's cards with their colorful holiday symbols and hearty messages of cheer.

Bevin holds Russia now ready to cooperate with other nations.

1946 Spirit of Christmas

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